THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF

THE SOCIOLOGY OF AFRICA

Edited by

R. SOORYAMOORTHY

and

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OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

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2023

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OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

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Published in the United States of America by Oxford University Press
198 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016, United States of America.

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Library of Congress Control Number: 2023020443

ISBN 978-0-19-760849-4

DOI: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780197608494.001.0001

Printed by Sheridan Books, Inc., United States of America

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PREFACE

THIS is a proud moment, not only for us as the editors, but also for the contributors and peer reviewers who made this undertaking to compile the knowledge of the sociology of Africa possible. The hard work of completing the task has finally borne fruit. We presume and hope that the contents of this volume will be of great use to students and scholars who are interested in both the sociology of Africa and African knowledge.

It has been a difficult, yet joy-filled journey. Once we had a blueprint for the project and had laid out the individual chapters after a thorough review of the existing literature and prominent databases, it was a daunting task to find, approach, and coax experts in the respective fields to contribute. Because the volume is the first of its kind in compiling sociological knowledge about African societies, we needed well-researched pieces on the relevant topics and themes that collectively contribute to the sociology of Africa. We are grateful to those who not only were kind enough to accept our invitation, but also willing to draft the chapters as they had been outlined in the request. Our contributors were also patient and accommodative while revising the chapters in line with our comments and that of the peer reviewers. Fifty authors from within and outside the continent of Africa and its diaspora contributed to this handbook. Peer reviewers lent us a supportive hand in returning the reviews timeously, and this helped us to work according to the schedule. Needless to say, their recommendations were instrumental in maintaining the quality and standards of the chapters. We are grateful to both the contributors and the peer reviewers who graciously spent their valuable time to help materialize this project.

When we were proposing the idea for this volume, we received a very positive and encouraging response from Anthony Wahl, a senior commissioning editor at Oxford University Press. He has supported us unconditionally at every stage. His team of content and technical experts at OUP were also instrumental in moving us forward. This was a great inspiration for us to keep our commitment to the completion of the Handbook. Anthony was soon joined by his colleague Holly Mitchell to make sure that the project moved ahead seamlessly. We are grateful to both of them, and to the teams at Oxford University Press and Newgen Knowledge Works under the able leadership of Jaishree Srijan.

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language, gender, and development (pp. 209–234). Zed Books. https://doi.org/10.5040/9781350218147.ch-010

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